

## **Abstract**

The present invention relates to compositions comprising one or more connective tissue derived polypeptides having a molecular weight of less than 30,000Da ~~which~~ that are capable of tolerising individuals to antigenic components of cartilage and prevent the appearance of and/or treat symptoms of arthritis and other musculoskeletal degenerative conditions. The present invention provides methods for recovering polypeptides having a molecular weight of less than 30,000Da from connective tissue and having anti-arthritis or anti-inflammatory activity. The present invention further relates to compositions comprising a polypeptide ~~comprising a~~ containing an NC4 domain of collagen type IX alpha 1 chain NC4 domain or biologically active fragment thereof, having ~~anti-arthritis or anti-inflammatory activity and~~ a molecular weight of less than 30,000Da, ~~which~~ where the polypeptide is capable of tolerising individuals to antigenic components of cartilage ~~and prevent, preventing~~ the appearance of arthritis symptoms, and/or treating the symptoms of arthritis.